

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04844 100415Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

----- 037712

P R 071020Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4849

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 4844

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA FIVE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS: LPF OFFERS

MINOR CONCESSIONS

REF: VIENTIANE 4777

1. I CALLED ON PHENG EVENING JULY 6 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. PHENG RECALLED THAT HE HAD INTENDED TO DISCONTINUE MEETINGS WITH HIS LPF COUNTERPART FOR A FEW DAYS TO PERMIT BOTH SIDES TO REFLECT ON OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER COMPLETING DISCUSSION OF ALL ARTICLES IN THE DRAFT PROTOCOL (REFTEL). HOWEVER, PHOUMI CALLED ON HIM JULY 4 AND 5, OFFERING MINOR CONCESSIONS. PHENG SAID HE FELT PHOUMI IS SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO MOVE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD WHILE NOT MAKING SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS. AT JULY 4 AND 5 MEETINGS, PHOUMI SHOWED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN FOLLOWING FIELDS:

A) REFERENCES TO U.S. AND THAILAND:

ARTICLE 15 OF PROTOCOL UNDER NEGOTIATION CALLS ON USA AND THAILAND BY NAME TO RESPECT INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY OF LAOS. PHENG INSISTED THAT THIS REFERENCE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 VIENTI 04844 100415Z

COULD ONLY BE RETAINED IF NORTH VIETNAM BY ADDED; UNDER

CIRCUMSTANCES, PHOUMI SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO SAM NEUA THAT LANGUAGE BE GENERALIZED TO CALL UPON "ALL FOREIGN COUNTRIES" TO RESPECT LAO INDEPENDENCE. PHENG ALSO DEMANDED DELETION OF REFERENCE TO "REMOVAL OF ALL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS UNDER SUPERVISION OF AIR AMERICA, AIR CONTINENTAL AND AID, " WHICH LPF WANTS INCLUDED IN ARTICLE 15 OF DRAFT PROTOCOL. PHENG CLAIMED PHOUMI AGREED TO MORE GENERAL LANGUAGE WHICH DOES NOT SINGLE OUT ANY ORGANIZATION BY NAME.

B) NEUTRALIZATION OF VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG:

PHOUMI OFFERED TO REDUCE BY ONE NUMBER OF LPF BATTALIONS TO BE STATIONED IN VIENTIANE (TWO VICE THREE) AND IN LUANG PRABANG (ONE VICE TWO). PHENG SAID THAT HE HELD TO THE RLG POSITION THAT LARGE JOINT POLICE FORCE AND THREE LPF COMPANIES IN VIENTIANE AND ONE COMPANY IN LUANG PRABANG ARE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE SECURITY. PHENG NOTED THAT LPF OFFER WAS IMPROVEMENT BUT THOUGHT THAT IF RLG CONTINUED STAND FIRM, LPF WOULD BE WILLING MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS.

C) DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS:

PHOUMI SAID THAT THIS SUBJECT IS "SECONDARY" PROBLEM SO LONG AS LPF RECEIVES VICE PRIME MINISTERSHIP. PHENG TOLD ME THAT HE THOUGHT COMPROMISE COULD PROBABLY BE REACHED GRANTED VICE PRIME MINISTERSHIP TO SOUPHANOUVONG, IN RETURN FOR RLG RETAINING BOTH MINISTRIES DEFENSE AND INTERIOR.

2. PHENG SAID TWO SIDES REMAINED FAR APART ON DETERMINING WHO HELD WHAT TERRITORY ON FEBRUARY 22. PHENG SUGGESTED TO PHOUMI THAT BOTH SIDES SUBMIT THEIR MAPS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SITES TO PLACE STAKES THEREBY LAYING CLAIM TO TERRAIN HELD BY RESPECTIVE ARMED FORCES, BUT THAT NO EFFORT BE MADE AT THIS TIME TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES.

PHENG THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO CIRCUMVENT DIFFERENCES AND LET JOINT LAO COMMISSION SORT OUT DIFFERENCES LATER.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 VIENTI 04844 100415Z

PHOUMI OFFERED TO THINK ABOUT SUGGESTION.

3. UNLIKE HIS PAST WILLINGNESS TO SHARE WITH ME RESULTS OF HIS BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH PHOUMI, PHENG WAS UNCOMMUNICATIVE ABOUT PHOUMI'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AFTERNOON JULY 6. ALL I COULD GET OUT OF HIM WAS "THAT ATMOSPHERE WAS PROPITIOUS TO NEGOTIATIONS" AND THAT PHOUMI GAVE IMPRESSION THAT LPF IS GENUINELY INTERESTED

IN FINDING NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. (COMMENT: I GAINED SAME IMPRESSION FROM MY JULY 3 MEETING WITH PHOUMI --VIENTIANE 4778.) PHENG TOLD ME PRIME MINISTER WAS INCLINED TO OFFER CONCESSIONS, BUT, IN RETURN, EXPECTED LPF ALSO TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. IF SOUVANNA TOOK THIS LINE AND PHOUMI ACCEPTED, THEN OVERALL BARGAINING ON OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES HAS BEGUN.

4. I TOLD PHENG THAT I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH HIM, PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH, STATUS OF PROTOCOL UNDER NEGOTIATION, SO THAT WASHINGTON WILL NOT HAVE UNPLEASANT SURPRISE IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED ON BASIS PRESENT DRAFT. HE AGREED TO MEET WITH ME AT BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK BUT CAUTIONED HE HAD INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER NOT TO DIVULGE TEXT TO ANYONE.

5. WHEN I SAW SOTH PHETRASY LATE LAST EVENING AT A SOCIAL GATHERING, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS IN JULY. HE SAID HE WAS RETURNING TO SAM NEUA JULY 7 TO BRING LPF CENTRAL COMMITTEE UP TO DATE ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND LATEST RLG OFFER. I TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MENTION THAT, IN MY OPINION, THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN LAOS NEGOTIATIONS AND EVENTS IN CAMBODIA. SOTH AGREED. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION RE PHOUMI'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, SOTH ONLY SAID THAT IT WENT "WELL." SOTH SAID HE HOPED TO RETURN TO VIENTIANE WITHIN ONE WEEK.

6. COMMENT: AS NEGOTIATIONS APPROACH THE SENSITIVE DECISIVE STAGE, PHENG AND SOUVANNA ARE PLAYING THEIR CARDS SOMEWHAT CLOSER TO THEIR CHEST. I, NEVERTHELESS, HAVE IMPRESSION THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE ON THE TRACK, THAT BOTH SIDES ARE WILLING TO RESOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND, UNLESS OBSTACLES ARISE LAST MOMENT, LAO NEGOTIATIONS WILL
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 VIENTI 04844 100415Z

BE COMPLETED IN NEXT FEW WEEKS.
DEAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, ARMISTICE, AGREEMENTS, BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI04844
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750008-0259
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730748/aaaabiwo.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 VIENTIANE 4777
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Nov-2001 by thigpegh>; APPROVED <20-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAO PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS: LPF OFFERS MINOR CONCESSIONS
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, LA, ICC, LPF
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005